

FREDERICKA L. M. McGEE

Ms. McGee is currently general counsel to California State Assembly Speaker Karen Bass and served in the same capacity to former Speakers Fabian Núñez and Antonio Villaraigosa. In 2006 in her capacity as general counsel to Speaker Núñez, Ms. McGee advocated for and negotiated the passage of legislation that furthers a vitally important public policy goal in the legal profession: increasing diversity on the bench. Because of Ms. McGee's efforts, the judicial appointments process will now provide a mechanism for tracking diversity in judicial candidates and appointments to the bench. For the first time in this state's history, California law now requires that demographic data



on judicial candidates be collected and reported to the Legislature on an annual basis. As a result of her work, she was selected the one of *California Lawyer's* Attorney of the Year and named one of the Daily Journal's Top 100 Lawyers of 2007. In 2008, she also received the Wiley Manuel Law Foundation's Diversity on the Bench award and the Lawyer of the Year award from California Association of Black Lawyers. She was recently appointed by Senator Dianne Feinstein to Federal Judicial Nomination Evaluation Advisory Committee for the Eastern District of California to recommend applicants for U.S. District Court Judge, U.S. Attorney, and U.S. Marshal who are ultimately forwarded to President Elect Barack Obama.

Ms. McGee has a vast background in state politics and has served in various capacities including chief of staff to two former Assemblymembers and as legislative director to the Honorable Cruz Bustamante. She has extensive policy experience from her consultant positions on Assembly Insurance Committee, Assembly Public Safety Committee and Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy. Mrs. McGee has also worked as legislative counsel to the State Bar of California.

Prior to focusing her practice on public policy, Ms. McGee practiced as a defense litigation attorney with Murtaugh, Miller, Meyer & Nelson where she handled personal injury, bankruptcy and employment cases. Before attending law school, she served as Sr. District Assistant to the late Congressman Glenn M. Anderson of Long Beach.

Mrs. McGee grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, Darmstadt, Germany and Southern California. She graduated with high honors from Long Beach Polytechnic High School. She earned a Bachelors of Arts in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Marketing from California State University, Long Beach. She later received her Juris Doctorate degree and was voted the Faculty's Most Outstanding Student from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Mrs. McGee is a member of the California State Bar where she previously volunteered as a Probation Monitor and mentor for the Bar's Volunteers on Parole program. She has worked with several youth programs, acted as a mock trial judge and taught paralegal courses. She is also the founding president of the Black Youth Leadership Project, Inc., a non-profit organization which offers interactive legislative and debate programs to African American high school students throughout California. She also serves on the Board of the Wiley Manuel Bar Association of Sacramento.